

Aycock Primitive Established In 1899

The original Aycock Primitive Baptist Church of Fremont was located near the railroad about five miles from the present site on land donated by S. H. Aycock.

The present church was established in 1899 and the land was donated by J. A. Davis and Jacob Aycock.

The first pastor of the church was Elder T. B. Lancaster, a native of Wayne County.

Elder Lancaster served the church as minister until 1909. The deacons serving with Elder Lancaster were J. W. Davis and Thomas Clarke. O. L. Yelverton was clerk until 1905 and William Ricks was later ordained as deacon.

In 1909 Elder J. C. Hooks, a Fremont native, began his tenure as pastor. During this time the deacons were W. R. Ballance and W. G. Smith, Sr. Until 1928 W. G. Smith was both deacon and clerk at which time W. L. Minshew was appointed the clerk's position.

In 1930, Elder E. L. Cobb, a Wilson native, became the new pastor, and the board of deacons to serve with him were W. A. Bogue, S. H. Blow and J. T. Smith. J. T. Ballance assumed the duties of clerk in 1936.

In 1950, Elder W. J. Berry of



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Elon College became the temporary pastor and filled that capacity for eight months.

Later in 1950, Elder D. B. Denson, a Rocky Mount native, was chosen minister and held that office until 1960. During

Elder Denson's tenure, J. T. Smith, J. T. Ballance, S. H. Blow and Eli T. Smith, Sr. filled the posts as deacons.

S. H. Blow was a deacon of the church longer than any other and held that post at his death in

1960 at 96 years old.

The present minister of Aycock's Church is Elder D. B. Stokes of Jacksonville. Elder Stokes began his services to the church in 1960. Serving with

him and the board of deacons are, Eli T. Smith, Sr., Robert Ballance and Gordon Smith. Eli T. Smith, Sr. maintains the office of clerk and senior deacon.

Mrs. Frances Smith was the first appointed treasurer of the church and contains to hold that office.

Improvements on the present church began in 1930. Hale Smith presented stained glass doors in memory of his mother and father, Mollie Ballance Smith and William Gabe Smith, Sr.

In 1955, W. G. Smith, Jr., donated the expenses and materials for a new roof.

The congregation remodeled the front of the church, replaced the old pulpit and altar and added new chancel furniture in 1960.

Since that time a new heating and air conditioning unit has been installed, new rest rooms, new floor, carpet, paneled chair railings on the walls, lowered the ceiling, installed a lighting system and stained glass windows. The windows were donated by families of deceased members.

Fayetteville Times
Gastonia Gazette
Goldsboro: News-Argus
Greensboro Daily News

FEB 22 1978

